

ia hangs 13 for Gafsa attack

April 17 (Agencies) — Thirteen men sentenced to death by a state security court for a guerrilla attack against town of Gafsa last January in which 41 people died at dawn today, the justice ministry announced. Leaders in France and other countries had called on Habib Bourguiba to spare the lives of the 13 men. Two of the 59 defendants tried last month by the state court were condemned to death in absentia and were have fled to Libya. Ten of the defendants have a sentence at hard labour, five in absentia, five were at hard labour and nine other received sentences on five and a half years to six months suspended. The attack on the police and army barracks was carried out by guerrillas who crossed into Tunisia from Algeria. Tunisia said the guerrillas were trained and / Libya. Libya denied the charges claiming it was rising against the Tunisian government.

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جوردان تيمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

Kabul proposes five-point peace plan

MOSCOW, April 17 (R) — The pro-Soviet Afghan government today called for talks with Iran and Pakistan as part of a five-point plan to ensure peace and security in the region, Tass News Agency reported. In a despatch from the Afghan capital, Tass said the plan was designed to ensure "lasting democratic peace and reliable security" for the peoples of Afghanistan and the region as a whole. Tass said the proposals included bilateral talks with Iran and Pakistan to discuss normalising relations, and calling a regional conference without preconditions. The Afghan government also called for talks with unidentified regional governments to lower military spending and reduce tension so as to create an atmosphere of confidence. The plan also called for a resumption of talks on declaring the Indian Ocean and Gulf region a zone of peace and lowering the military presence there. One point cited by Tass spoke of "reducing armaments and armed forces with appropriate international guarantees of security."

gional Briefs

banon, April 17 (R) — Lebanese right-wing militia shelled a village in South Lebanon and said they would unless the inhabitants ousted Irish troops there. Maj. ad, commander of the Israeli-backed militiamen, he people of Al Tiri 24 hours to drive out Irish units of eacekeeping force. Residents said the militiamen ri today and badly damaged three buildings. There ualties. The village now has only about 100 of its 30 inhabitants following Maj. Haddad's warnings.

April 17 (R) — The Libyan authorities have rounded ounded hundreds of people on corruption charges over 3 months, western diplomatic and business sources ay. They said that about 2,000 Libyans had been y after being accused of taking bribes for securing volving foreign firms. They said that while there was : corruption to stamp out, Libyan leader Muammar also using the purge to shake out political opposition. y colonels were among those detained, but the sources mes. Libyan Television has been screening nightly a ls by people's tribunals of senior officials accused of

April 17 (R) — Lebanon's single-house parliament, the Deputies, today voted to extend its term for another official sources said. The chamber was elected in May, four-year term. But it has renewed its term several rt periods ending next month. Government sources e extension to the inability to hold general elections t security conditions. The chamber has 99 seats, but nbers have died over the past few years without being e president of the republic is entitled to return the bill abser if he objects to it on constitutional grounds, ry sources said.

April 17 (R) — The governor of the northwest Iranian West Azerbaijan today denied reports by the Turkish et that heavy fighting was continuing near the Turkish riyet said today that heavy fighting was going on nian troops and Kurdish guerrillas in Kotur, north- and that the guerrillas had cut the main Turkey-Iran ing Europe with the Middle East. The paper also it Kurds had encircled an Iranian army unit of 400 moured personnel carriers and that 30 civilian Kurds rillas had been killed in the fighting. Governor Gen- l Hagru denied the reports, but he said there were ks on gendarmerie posts by insurgents which were nd always repelled by the gendarmes. Mr. Hagru put oll of government troops at nine killed and 25 fighting yesterday with Kurdish guerrillas near rther south. Kurdish sources said only five of their d been killed.

April 17 (R) — Turkey's national security council mended extending martial law, in force in 20 of the provinces, for a further two months. The cabinet was discuss the recommendation and was expected to Under the constitution, parliament has to approve very two months. After government approval of the he two houses are likely to vote tomorrow or next e expected to vote in favour of the extension. Martial n force in some of the Turkish provinces for 16 n others for 12 months in an effort to combat political ch has claimed thousands of lives in the last few years.

ril 17 (R) — French Communist Party leader Georges turned today from Lebanon and described as ositive" his meetings there with both Lebanese and eaders. Mr. Marchais, who spent three days in Beirut, is he felt France should not let itself be influenced in ast policies by the United States. He said Israel was for tension in the Middle East and added that the e people expected much from France in the future. A nment invitation to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat would show that the way to peace negotiations was r. Marchais said earlier today in Beirut.

April 17 (R) — Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Bohus- ek today extended his visit to Kuwait by a day to hold inister of State for Cabinet Affairs Abdul Aziz Hus- waiz News Agency reported. Mr. Husseini told the Chnoupek had said Czechoslovakia wanted to set up nic projects and strengthen cultural cooperation with e talks also covered the whole range of political, d cultural relations between the two countries. Mr. d. The Czechoslovak minister was due to leave for today but will now stay until tomorrow morning, the

April 17 (R) — Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ahmad i said today the Soviet Union's desire for oil was cent moves in the Middle East. Soviet strategy was ibuting the Gulf countries and binding them to the e as satellite countries, he told students at the King University in Jeddah. Sheikh Yamani said studies had Iraq, Iran and Kurdistan were prime Soviet targets. ration of nationalities inside Iran could cause the of a leftist regime, as happened in Afghanistan, he viet influence in South Yemen and overtures towards troling the strategic Gulf Strait of Hormuz were evi- viet schemes in that direction, he told the students. itions in the region stemmed from an increasing need oil and an inability to continue exporting oil to its heikh Yamani said. The Soviet Union was at present per cent of its foreign exchange from sales of one els a day of oil to the west. But this would change if it porting, the minister said.

ril 17 (R) — Arab League Secretary-General Chadii sit Bonn next month for talks with Chancellor Helmut d Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the lea- here said today. Mr. Klibi, expected on May 7 for a or three days, would discuss the Palestinian issue and e East topics as well as ways of promoting the dialogue rab states and the European Common Market, a- said. The former Tunisian minister has visited Paris. London in recent months for similar discussions.

AD, April 17 (R) — Pakistan will negotiate with Saudi t week for two loans totalling \$37 million, it was today. An official statement said Pakistan was seeking \$65 million to carry out repairs on the Tarbela Dam Indus in the Northwest Frontier Province, and another ion for the construction of a fertiliser terminal at Port at Karachi. A team of Pakistani officials will leave on Saturday for Saudi Arabia.

Weizman to resign from Begin's cabinet

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 17 (R) — Israeli Defence Minister Ezer Weizman, who touched off a political storm yesterday by urging early general elections, will offer his resignation to Prime Minister Menachem Begin this weekend, a close associate of Mr. Weizman said today.

"Mr. Weizman realises he may have to pay a stiff price for his political views and will offer to resign after the prime minister returns, probably over the weekend," the associate told Reuters.

Mr. Begin is expected home tomorrow from Washington where he has held talks with President Carter on Palestinian autonomy.

Mr. Weizman has been bitterly attacked for his remarks in a television interview last night, in which he said elections should be held before the scheduled November 1981 date to help solve Israel's serious political and economic problems.

He also said he supported Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's proposal to implement Palestinian autonomy in Gaza before the West Bank, a move opposed by Mr. Begin and his nationalist Herut (Freedom) Party. Herut and the Liberal Party are the chief partners in the Likud Alliance, which dominates the coalition government.

Finance Minister Yigal Hurwitz was the first cabinet member to urge Mr. Weizman to step down. Addressing the Tel Aviv Rotary Club, Mr. Hurwitz said he felt the defence minister had no alternative but to resign after criticising the cabinet so sharply.

Herut executive committee member Dov Shilansky, who is also a member of parliament, said he would call on Mr. Weizman to quit the government. "Weizman's remarks were an open attack on Mr. Begin's leadership and the government, a shameful betrayal, and I cannot see how he can continue to serve as minister," Mr. Shilansky told reporters.

The chairman of the Herut Party in the Knesset, Mr. Chaim Kaufman, who is a close friend of Mr. Weizman, said he was shocked by the television interview, but further study of the remarks was needed before any action was taken.

The Herut executive committee today unofficially discussed the appointment of Mr. Weizman's replacement, a committee source said. Most members favoured Mr. Moshe Arens, chairman of the Knesset foreign affairs and defence committee, the source said.

Mr. Weizman's cabinet colleagues sought to play down the controversy, one minister recalling that Mr. Weizman had several times threatened to resign in the past.

Mr. Weizman said in the television interview that he would consider forming a centrist party. His remark lent weight to persistent news reports that he had been meeting the Liberal Party and another partner in the government, the small Democratic Party, to sound out the possibility of forming a centrist group.

Mr. Weizman apparently planned his explosive move carefully.

Berlin prosecution urges jail terms for Palestinians

WEST BERLIN, April 17 (R) — West Berlin prosecutors today demanded jail terms between three and three-and-a-half years for six Palestinians accused of planning a bomb attack in the city.

The prosecution claimed there was clear evidence the six, alleged to be members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), had planned to blow up West Berlin's biggest fuel depot before they were arrested in April last year.

Police had discovered 12 kilos of explosive in a luggage locker in the central station and 12 fuses in a flat used by the group, aged between 22 and 34, they said.

The accused have refused to make any statement to the court on the charges or give any indication of possible motives for the alleged attack plan.

Originally eight Palestinians were arrested. One of them, 27-year-old Hassan Al Harri, was released last May after he gave a statement to police incriminating the others.

The defence council has claimed Mr. Al Harri was an Israeli agent who led the other seven into a trap. The eighth member of the group will face a separate trial.

The trial of the six men began last October. In November police arrested and expelled three Palestinians who had just arrived in West Berlin on suspicion that they planned to try and free the accused.

The defence council will begin summing up its case next week. Court officials said the trial could last for several more weeks.

An Israel Television producer of the show on which he appeared said later that another Israeli personality had been scheduled to be interviewed. "But Mr. Weizman's aides called a few days ago and promised to provide fireworks if we interviewed him now," the producer said.

Meanwhile, leaders of the opposition Labour Party were jubilant over the controversy.

Mr. Weizman's remark last night that he would consider serving in a government headed by Labour Party leader Shimon Peres was not taken seriously by Labour Party officials.

"We have plenty of potential candidates for the defence post and do not need any outsiders," one official said.

All public opinion polls in recent months have shown that Labour would sweep into power if elections were held now.



The Turkish ambassador to the Holy See, Mr. Vecdi Turel, is taken to hospital shortly after he was attacked and wounded by four gunmen in an ambush outside his residence in Rome Thursday. Armenian activists claimed responsibility for the attack. See story on page 6. (AP wirephoto)

Warns of 'some sort of military action' Carter announces new sanctions against Iran

WASHINGTON, April 17 (R) — President Carter announced today a series of sanctions against Iran. He said that if no moves were made soon to release 50 American hostages held at the U.S. embassy in Tehran, he would bar food and medicine shipments.

The President, speaking at a nationally televised news conference, said he has decided to prohibit most travel to Iran. He also said he has barred imports from there, and ordered an end to most financial transfers from the United States to Iran.

Mr. Carter said a number of U.S. allies were considering sanctions of their own which they might invoke to help gain freedom for the hostages held by Iranian militants since Nov. 4.

"The measures I am announc-

ing today are non-belligerent in nature," he said. "But the availability of peaceful measures, like the patience of the American people, is running out."

He said other moves such as a ban on food and medicine shipments might become necessary later if his latest punitive measures and any similar actions by U.S. allies did not produce a solution to the hostage crisis.

President Carter added that if his various sanctions, which have included severance of diplomatic relations with Iran, did not produce a result, "then the only next step available that I can see is some sort of military action."

He described such military action as the prerogative and the right of the United States.

He did not elaborate on what military action he was thinking of, but administration officials said earlier today that a likely first step "could be a limited naval quarantine" to seal off specific Iranian exports and imports.

Mr. Carter announced his latest moves in an opening statement at his first news conference since the

middle of last month. The steps he announced today included:

-- Barring all imports from Iran to the United States.

-- Prohibiting all financial transfers by people subject to American authority overseas or abroad to any person or organisation in Iran. News organisations were excluded.

-- Prohibiting travel by American citizens to Iran, except where it might interfere with U.S. news operations. He called on U.S. news agencies to scale down their operations there.

-- Ordering that all U.S. military equipment previously ordered by Iran but impounded because of the hostage crisis be made available to U.S. military forces or sold abroad.

-- Asking congress for authority to pay reparations or other claims by American citizens or companies.

"If a constructive Iranian response is not forthcoming soon, the United States should and would proceed with other measures," he warned.

Carter, Begin pledge to meet May 26 deadline

WASHINGTON, April 17 (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and President Carter pledged today to do everything possible to achieve an accord with Egypt on self-rule for Palestinians by May 26, the goal set by Israel and Egypt.

A White House statement on six hours of meetings between Mr. Carter and Mr. Begin said: "Prime Minister Begin reaffirmed the objective set out in his and President Sadat's letter to President Carter of March 26, 1979, to do everything possible to reach agreement by May 26, 1980, the one-year goal they set for themselves in that letter."

"President Carter reaffirmed the determination of the United States to do everything it appropriately can to assist Israel and Egypt to achieve that goal," it added.

Besides committing their personal prestige to reaching an early agreement, the two leaders agreed on several points of procedure which ought to ease the way, U.S. officials said.

Mr. Begin accepted a U.S. suggestion that some issues closely affecting Palestinians' daily lives such as water rights, land title and Israeli settlements could be addressed in subsequent negotiations once an overall accord was reached, officials said.

The two leaders also reached tentative accord on a formula to deal with Israel's security concerns, U.S. officials said.

American officials said they now believed there was a real chance to reach an agreement by the May 26 goal. But they would not predict whether the agreement would attract Palestinians to join the peace process.

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Roman tomb brought to light in Jabal Hussein

Text and photos by Steve Ross
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

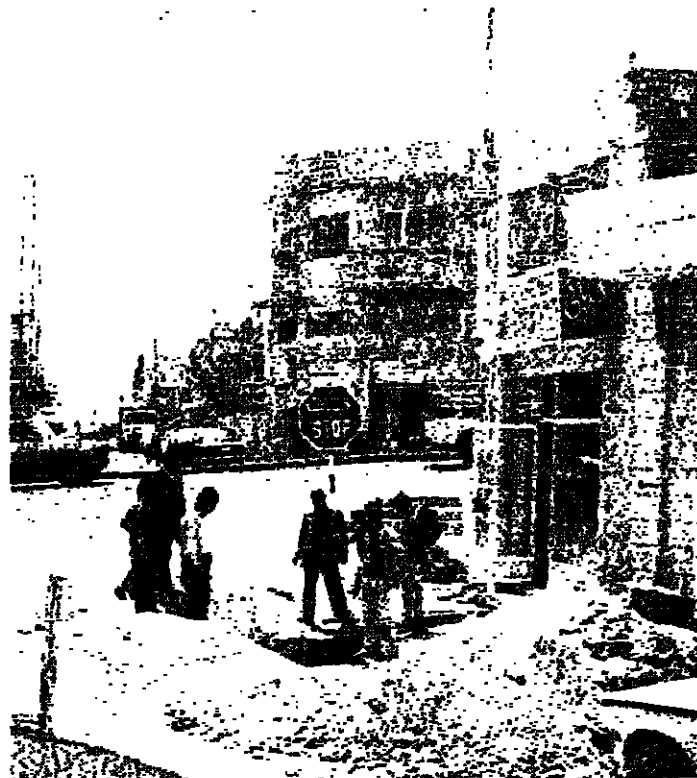
AMMAN, April 17 — When a work crew digging a trench for a sewer in Jabal Hussein broke through the top of an ancient tomb a week ago, Jordan's Department of Antiquities swung into action.

Today, as the rapidly-executed rescue dig finished its work, the find had already shed significant new light on Philadelphia, Roman Amman.

The tomb, carved into the bedrock just across and a little way down the road from Jabal Hussein's central police station, has yielded enough artifactual evidence — including whole juglets and lamps — to provide a fairly reliable preliminary determination of its dating. Director General of Antiquities Adnan Hadidi told the Jordan Times today.

On the basis of a first assessment of the pottery, which includes some possible Hellenistic pieces, Dr. Hadidi said the tomb appears to have been dug in Early Roman times (probably around the middle of the second century B.C.), and to have been in use into the Byzantine period, around the fourth century A.D.

Mr. Wael Rashdan, inspector of antiquities in Amman, was in charge of the six labourers working at the site (and was assisted by



The site of the accidentally discovered Roman tomb, in the heart of Jabal Hussein

Mr. Mohammad 'Ayesh of the department). Mr. Rashdan told the Jordan Times that the tomb consisted of a central chamber with 11 loculi (deep niches in which bodies were laid out) branching off. Some of the loculi extend under a nearby electrical supply store.

Such tombs were often used for many generations, a new body being laid in a loculus when the previous one had decomposed. Fragmentary bones have been recovered, though much disintegration has taken place over the years.

The finds also include several glass pieces and a worn copper coin which when cleaned and read will, it is hoped, further strengthen the tomb's dating.

But the most significant revelation arising from this accidental discovery is the very fact that the tomb is there.

The discovery "indicates that Philadelphia had more extensive occupation than we had thought," Dr. Hadidi said. "It is the first time we have found remains from that period in that area. Extensive Roman remains had been found previously in Jabal Jofah, Jabal Ashrafiah and on the south slope of Citadel Hill. But this is the first time we have anything like this north of the Citadel."

But displaying the true archaeological scientific concern for order, Dr. Hadidi continued, "one expects that the pottery finds will throw more light on the chronology of the period. This is what we really hope for from the discovery."

It is rare that an accidentally discovered tomb such as this one is entered by the original, ancient entrance. In the present case, the sewer trench cuts across the corner and one loculus of the Jabal Hussein tomb. Thus the entryway has to be dug out from inside the tomb.

Having cleared the central chamber and loculi, the excavators today were clearing the entryway. Mr. Rashdan explained that they were trying to finish their work at the site because today is the last day the police, who are short of manpower, can supply guards.

But the work appeared to have been pretty well completed. Soon the Antiquities Department will relinquish its authority over the work, and the sewer pipe will be laid along its planned route — but not without having inadvertently illuminated the ancient history of Jordan.

West Bank strikes over conditions in Israeli jail

JERUSALEM, April 17 (Agencies)—Palestinians in most towns on the occupied West Bank of Jordan closed their shops and businesses today in a strike for better conditions in Israeli jails where Arabs are held for alleged security offences, often without trial.

Business in Nablus, Hebron, Ramallah and other towns was at a standstill and the Israeli authorities were preparing for possible demonstrations.

Arab organisations yesterday called on the International Red Cross to intervene on behalf of some 2,800 prisoners now held in Israeli jails.

The organisations have proclaimed today "Prisoner Day" to press the Israelis to improve conditions in jails and allow more frequent family visits.

The Israeli authorities have said they will not allow West Bank residents to demonstrate.

The Israeli military government of the West Bank is still holding 35 men from the Jalazon refugee camp north of Nablus who were detained 12 days ago. The camp itself is under a dusk to dawn curfew.

The military governor of Bethlehem has decided to bring charges against 20 students who staged a sit-in strike at Abu Dis

College in Jerusalem last week, to protest the closure of the holy city's only institute of higher education serving Arabs.

Nine members of the Birzeit University student council have been detained. Dr. Gabi Baramki, the university's vice president, said that classes would be suspended for the rest of the week.

The Council for Higher Education met Tuesday in Beit Hamina, near Jerusalem to protest the closure of Abu Dis College, the "ongoing harassment" of Birzeit University and brutality by Israeli troops in suppressing a demonstration by students at the UNRWA-run teacher's training college near Ramallah last week.

During the meeting, the council decided to accept new members representing Gaza University and "Jerusalem University", a planned amalgamation of Abu Dis and Beit Hamina colleges.

Arab mayors today visited families of prisoners held for security offences and sponsored collections to contribute to the families.

For the first time the National Guidance Committee (NGC), a body of 21 mayors, businessmen, editors and lawyers, admitted it had organised the strike.

The NGC is solidly against the U.S.-Egyptian-Israeli plan to

grant limited self-rule to Palestinians and says it will not accept anything less than full independence. It was four months ago, but its members only recently began openly of its activities.

The strike was unusual in that it did not come in reaction to specific Israeli action.

Sources say the NGC emerged as the most powerful best organised political force in the West Bank and Gaza since they were occupied in 1967.

Palestinians set off bomb in Jerusalem

DAMASCUS, April 17 (R)—Palestinian command here tonight they demand Israeli car licensing east Jerusalem suburb with bomb today.

The Palestine News quoted a commando spokesman as saying the blast destroyed documents at the centre. Police sources in Jerusalem today said a small charge went off in Jerusalem slightly damaging building but caused no casualties.

Royal Jordanian Falcons prepare for Baghdad air force display

AMMAN, April 17 (JT) — Alia's Royal Jordanian Falcons will be leaving for Baghdad on Saturday to perform aerobatic displays at Iraqi air force show on April 19 to 24, the airline announced here today.

The invitation was extended to Alia by the Iraqi General Youth Training Association in keeping with Iraq's desires to promote interest in aviation as a sport among that country's young people.

Contracts totaling JD 382,000 have been signed with the Iraqi government recently for training pilots at Alia's Royal Jordanian Academy. These include a JD 152,000 contract for training 19 Iraqis to become crop-dusters; a JD 15,000 contract for training five private pilot instructors and JD 215,000 to train about 30 commercial pilots on 15-month courses. Among the trainees will be the first Iraqi girl to be trained as a flight instructor. The first five trainees arrived in Amman this week. Mr. Taleb Hadidi, manager of the Royal Jordanian Academy, said that the Falcon's performances in Iraq would probably



Sharif Ghazi Rakan (left) and Falcons Director of Operations Paul Warsaw

stimulate a lot of interest in aviation and encourage Iraqis to send even more young people to learn to fly in Jordan.

The coming Falcons' visit will be the second display by the team in an Arab country. In November 1978 they performed at an air show in Doha, Qatar, and they spent June through September of last year touring England after appearing in the famous Paris Air Show.

The Falcons plan to make

another tour of Europe this summer and they also received some 20 invitation air show organisers to them to perform.

While in England the plan to pick up a new ad their fleet, a six-seat Norman Islander, two support planes. Alia purchased the plane while ready in July. The aerobatic planes considered Pitts Specials which not only to promote Alia to represent Jordan at air shows.

Recently Jordan's General of Civil Aviation Ghazi Rakan, visited the team and did some aerobatic himself. Sharif Ghazi is a force pilot and was a member of the Hashemite Dynasty aerobatic team that was Majesty King Hussein. "It's a great little airplane really enjoyed myself like to do it again," Ghazi said after his flight. "I first time he had flown since 1966."



The Falcons check out one of their planes

Local News Briefs

AMMAN, April 17 (JNA) — Arrangements for the Saturday opening of the Third International Congress on the History of Bilad Al Sham (greater Syria) were today reviewed in a meeting at the University of Jordan chaired by His Highness Crown Prince Hassan. Attending the meeting were Jordanian scholars who will present papers to the congress and the President of the university, Dr. Nasereddin Al Assad. His Majesty King Hussein will give the opening speech at the six-day congress, and Prince Hassan is expected to preside over the sessions.

BAGHDAD, April 17 (JNA) — Minister of Social Development Ibrahim Mufti, accompanied by Iraqi Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Bakr Mahmoud Rasoul, today visited a number of social institutes for the retarded here. Mrs. Mufti also attended the opening of two Centres for the retarded in Baghdad. Mrs. Mufti arrived here last night at the head of a Jordanian delegation for talks with Iraqi officials on cooperation in social development, labour and vocational training.

AMMAN, April 17 (JNA) — A Soviet educational delegation is due here on Monday for a week-long visit to Jordan. During the visit, the delegation, which is to be led by the Soviet deputy minister of higher education, will hold talks at the Ministry of Education in Amman on means of strengthening bilateral cooperation in education. The delegation will also tour archaeological sites in Jordan.

AMMAN, April 17 (JNA) — The achievements of the Arab Bureau for Statistics over the past year will be among the subjects to be reviewed here on Saturday by specialists meeting at the headquarters of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU). The participants represent statistical departments in Arab states and various Arab League organisations. They will also discuss the CAEU's technical assistance to Arab countries in working on statistics and the bureau's plans for the future.

AMMAN, April 17 (JNA) — The Department of Public Works in Balqa Governorate today started widening the Salt-Suweileh road to develop it into a 40-metre wide four lane highway. The department's Director, Mr. Ibrahim 'Awamleh, said the first phase of the project, to be carried out this year, will cost nearly JD 250,000. The entire project will take several years, and will alleviate traffic congestion on

the Amman-Suweileh-Jordan Valley route, Mr. 'Awamleh said. Parallel to the highway project, he said, the department embarked on another project for widening curves along Al Jordan Valley road at an estimated total cost of JD 50,000.

AMMAN, April 17 (JNA) — National Child Day will be observed in Jordan on Saturday. A spokesman for the Ministry of Education said schoolchildren will hear speeches on child care in Jordan start of morning classes.

ZARQA, April 17 (JNA) — The Zarqa Public Safety Council held a meeting today to discuss ways of curbing pollution around the Zarqa River. The committee also discussed fighting pollution in the city itself by reinforcing sanitary regulations in stores, bakeries, slaughterhouses, shops and public places. part in the meeting were the governor of Amman, Mr. Ya Mousili, the district governor of Zarqa, the director of the Health Department, mayors of Zarqa District and other local officials.

AMMAN, April 17 (JNA) — The Prime Minister, Shari Hamid Sharaf, accompanied by Minister of Awqaf and Affairs Kamel Sharif met this morning with the ministry's staff and students of the religious institute. Addressing the prime minister said that Jordan deeply believes that its strength and steadfastness are derived from its Islamic heritage. He called on them to resist trends towards desperation and passivity. The was attended by top officials of the Ministry of Awqaf and Affairs.

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AT A state banquet at the White House in Washington on Tuesday, Israeli Premier Menachem Begin assured his audience of Israel's "good intentions" towards what he called its "neighbours" in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. In granting them "autonomy", he said, "we will deliver them in peace and in human dignity and in justice and in liberty. We don't want to oppress them. We don't want to oppress anybody."

The diners at the White House were probably unaware of the rather different picture which we see on the West Bank today. As the "autonomy" negotiations build up to an orchestrated crescendo, the would-be recipients of Mr. Begin's beneficence are accelerating their resistance to the Israeli occupation. The Israeli military authorities are responding with a crackdown, particularly on schools and colleges. Young people accused of "security" offences are being hauled into prison; a dusk-to-dawn curfew is being maintained at Jelazon camp near Ramallah. The routine harassment of Palestinian educational institutions has forced them to disrupt their academic programmes.

In welcoming Mr. Begin to the White House, President Carter praised him for his "generosity" and his "sensitivity." He also spoke of the Palestinians as if they do not really exist except as beneficiaries of the wonders of autonomy under a sustained Israeli occupation.

The gap between the diplomatic niceties in Washington and the simmering unrest in the occupied territories is but one of many gaps in the Camp David mosaic. It is to be expected that the tempo of resistance in the West Bank and Gaza will increase in the coming weeks: the Palestinian people have no other means of putting before the world the reality of their true position at a time when they are being asked to surrender their rights to national self-expression in their own homeland.

The "peace, human dignity, justice and liberty" with which Mr. Begin is promising to "deliver" them contrast rather sharply with the hostility, oppression, injustice and tyranny which is their daily lot under occupation. Promises of a better day to come with "autonomy" are unlikely to impress them, since the occupation will continue, and it is the occupation itself which is the main instrument of oppression.

In his banquet speech, Mr. Begin spoke of Israel as a nation "conceived in courage and born in fight and reborn in resistance to tyranny to oppression." If that is true, then that story is soon to be repeated in Palestine.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'I: Once again President Carter and President Sadat have retreated before the intransigence of Premier Begin. They have agreed to hold further autonomy talks in Alexandria and Tel Aviv instead of in Washington, despite their previous agreement.

Naturally, a change in the venue of the negotiations doesn't change the fact that they constitute illegal interference in the Palestinian people's affairs and an attempt to drag them into the trap of autonomy, which they have rejected repeatedly. However, the retreat of the American and Egyptian presidents on the question of the venue is nevertheless a new indicator of their preparedness to make more concessions when the negotiations resume among the representatives of the three sides.

The string of concessions, which began a long time ago, seems now more than ever before likely to continue unbroken, in line with Israel's will. President Carter is concerned with the presidential election campaigns, and with pleasing Israel and its unquestioning supporters. He emphasised his intentions even before the resumption of the negotiations by declaring, in toasting Mr. Begin on Wednesday, his commitment to "indivisible Jerusalem".

This is the same expression which Mr. Carter's guest has always used to indicate his determination to hold Arab Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty. We wonder whether the American President has retreated from his stand on the holy city: or whether he is using one vague expression intending it to be understood differently by Arabs and Israel.

President Carter also did not waste any time in reiterating his opposition to the establishment of a Palestinian state and his rejection of any dealing with the PLO to achieve peace in the region. With these statements, Mr. Carter has reassured Mr. Begin on the American stand when the autonomy negotiations resume.

AL DUSTOUR: The latest product of Israel's criminal mentality is its interference in the housing projects of Arab citizens, and sending helicopters to destroy their agricultural crops with poisonous chemical materials.

We don't seek mercy for the Palestinians from Israel. This bloody violence and this cruelty are the labour pains inevitable for the birth of liberty and independence for the people of Palestine. The Israeli fire now burning the Palestinians is the one that will produce from them the generation of revolution and victory.

What we want to tell the world is that it should understand the facts about the Zionist movement which it has nursed, fed and planted in the Middle East. It is a poisonous tree which threatens the whole world. The world should understand how Israeli terror feeds the Palestinian violence about which Israel now is complaining. Otherwise, how can logic, wisdom and peaceful dialogue convince the Gush Emunim and Mr. Ariel Sharon's followers of the evil of their conduct and barbaric practices?

Arab economic experts begin meeting here

AMMAN, April 17 (R)—Arab League Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs Abdul Mohsen Zalzala arrived here today on a five-day visit to Jordan during which he will attend the second meeting of Arab economic experts due to open in Amman tonight.

Dr. Zalzala, a former Iraqi minister, told reporters on arrival that the experts were expected to discuss working papers prepared by the league as topics to be included in the agenda of the Arab summit conference due to convene in the capital later this year.

They would give special attention to a paper providing for development of economic relations between the Arab countries and the outside world, taking into considerations that the Arab economy should serve causes.

The experts would also draw up a national plan for inter-Arab economic co-operation, which will be submitted to the summit conference, and explore means of bringing Egypt back to the Arab fold, Dr. Zalzala said.

Fifteen experts from several Arab countries will attend the meeting in their capacity as members of the economic committee preparing for the summit.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Winter 1980

This winter is a funny one.
It's sunny, then it's rain.
One minute you're in your bikini,
Then your anorak's on again.

The snow it just kept falling
Until it was up to our knees,
Then the brilliant sun came out once more,
No wonder it made us all sneeze.

"Amman's winter is very mild."
So they used to say.
But when it's thirty, then three degrees,
Who'll listen to them now, I pray?

One day the kids are in shorts,
Then it's back to trousers and tights.
They're swimming in the outside pool,
Then they're back to snowball fights.

There's one little thing that's worrying me
About having all this rain.
It means those blooming mosquitos
Are going to be back again.

They're breeding by the thousand,
They're going to come at us "en masse,"
Perhaps if Pif-Paf doesn't work,
We could try some sort of gas.

They'll be flying around at night-time
And diving for your ear.
Believe me, if one doesn't get you,
Another one will, never fear.

It's been a lousy winter,
But the rain has been worthwhile,
When you drive out in the country
There's flowers for many a mile.

It's a mass of beautiful colour,
From here to the horizon it goes.
But be careful when you pick them,
Or you may get a wasp up your nose.

Pat Way

Amman
April 17, 1980

WHAT'S GOING ON

Sculpture Exhibition

The Jordan National Gallery presents an exhibition of sculptures by Samer Tabbaa. The gallery is open daily except on Tuesdays.

هكذا من الفن

Jordan Weekly Calendar

(Week of April 18 - 24)

EXHIBITIONS

April 18: The Jordan National Gallery presents an exhibition by Jordanian artist Samer Tabba'. The exhibition was officially opened on Thursday, April 17, and can be seen except Tuesdays.

April 22: The French Cultural Centre, in cooperation with the Ministry of Telecommunications, presents an exhibition of Jordanian and French stamps. The official opening is at 6:00 p.m. The exhibition will be on display to the public daily after April 27.

THEATRE

April 19: The Playreaders, a drama reading group.



Samer Tabba's "totem-pole" like structure



18-piece Stonehenge-like assemblage by Samer Tabba', on display at the National Gallery.

present an evening of theatre with Harold Pinter at the Haya Arts Centre at 8:30 p.m. This presentation is produced by Nabil Sawalha. Free tickets are available at the Haya Arts Centre. There will be a repeat performance on Monday, April 21 at the same time.

FILMS

TUESDAY, April 22: The British Council presents a film by Alan Bridges entitled "The Hireling" starring Robert Shaw, Sarah Miles, Peter Egan and Elizabeth Sellars. The film is based on the novel by L.P. Hartley which deals with the problems confronting a society woman who unwillingly leaves a mental home for the outside world. Starting time is at 6:00 p.m., and a repeat performance takes place on Wednesday, April 23 at 8:00 p.m.

*** The Goethe Institute presents a film by R.W. Fassbinder entitled "Haendler der Vier Jahreszeiten" (1972) starring Irm Hermann, Hanna Schygulla and Klaus Lowitsch. The story, set in the suburbs of Munich, relates the life of an unsuccessful fruit seller who dies of alcoholism. The film starts at 8:00 p.m., and is subtitled in English.

ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD TRIP

FRIDAY, April 25: The Friends of Archaeology will be making a trip to Iraq al Amir. The trip will be led by Mr. Francois Larche, resident architect with the French Archaeological Institute, who has been restoring the Hellenistic temple at the site. Meet at 8:30 a.m. outside the Department of Antiquities Registration Centre.

Aqaba Port expands to make room for giant freighters

Text and photos
By Rami G. Khouri

Special to the Jordan Times

AQABA — The need to accommodate the large new container vessels that move most of the world's cargo has prompted the Aqaba port authorities to build a permanent container terminal within the coming two years.

Aqaba Port Director General Ahmad Fawzi Abu Nuwwar told the Jordan Times in an interview that a permanent container port will have to come into service in the early part of 1982, to replace the two floating berths that have been in use as temporary container terminals during the past three years.

The British consultants Rendell, Palmer and Triton have just handed in their detailed feasibility study on the container port project. The Transport Ministry and Aqaba Port are jointly studying the report, and expect to ask the British consultants to go ahead with detailed design work within the coming months. Tenders for construction of the New container port will be asked for later this year, with a joint venture of foreign and local contractors likely to win the contract, Mr. Abu Nuwwar said.

The port will be 300 metres long with a 15-metre draught, capable of handling the biggest third-generation container ships now in use. These giant ships carry as many as 2,400 containers each. The port will also be designed so that it can be expanded to handle the even bigger fourth-generation container vessels that will be built in the near future.

Another reason for the permanent container port is the need for quayside handling facilities to unload the existing third generation ships. The new port will have two gantry cranes each capable of lifting 35 tons. These are needed because the third-generation ships are gearless vessels, lacking their own cranes. Such vessels do not stop at Aqaba now, because the small cranes on the existing floating berths cannot service them, and Aqaba port therefore is losing some potential business because of inadequate



Another new berth takes shape at Aqaba Port's general cargo area.

handling facilities.

The permanent container port will cost about JD 8 million, Mr. Abu Nuwwar estimated. It will also have provisions to handle roll-on roll-off (ro-ro) vessels.

The two floating berths now in use south of the main port were bought from the Japanese company Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries (IHI) in 1978. In 1982, they will have been in service for five years, and, according to international maritime insurance regulations, they have to be drydocked and cleaned. The two floating berths, named Mo'ta and Yarmouk, will probably be sold after the new container port enters service in early 1982, Mr. Abu Nuwwar said.

Mo'ta is now being used as a temporary container port, Yarmouk is unloading and bagging Jordan's bulk cement imports (600,000 tons a year).

The present JD 18 million expansion project at the port's general cargo area, meanwhile, is nearing completion. Two of the seven new berths have been completed and are being used; two others will enter service in the next several months, while the last three will enter service in the second half of the summer. When all the new berths are completed, Aqaba Port will have nine general cargo berths of 180 metres length each, allowing it to handle up to 12 medium-size general cargo vessels simultaneously.

The future of Aqaba Port, however, like that of seagoing cargo all over the world, is in containerisation. Three years ago, Aqaba did not receive any container cargo at all. By 1979, it was handling 30,000 containers a year. This year, it expects to handle at least 50,000 containers, or about 35 per cent of all imports at the port. On a global basis, about 65 per cent of all sea cargo is now moved in containers, and the percentage is still rising.

Improved efficiency, and the use of the two floating berths during the past three years, has increased Aqaba's annual handling capacity five-fold. In 1975, the port handled 682,000 tons of imports. Last year, it handled 2,301 million tons, and this year, according to Mr. Abu Nuwwar's projections, it will take in 3.8 million tons of imported goods. Of this total, 1.5 million tons will be transit goods passing through Aqaba to Iraq. The addition of more skilled workers who graduate from the port's training programme in Aqaba will increase its importing capacity to five million tons by 1981.

The total volume of both imports and exports passing through Aqaba Port has increased equally sharply in recent years. Total exports in 1975 were 870,000 tons, composed almost entirely of raw phosphate rock. Last year, exports were 2,709 million tons, and this year they will reach four million tons, Jordan Phosphate Mines Company Aqaba Manager Adel Sharie told the Jordan Times.

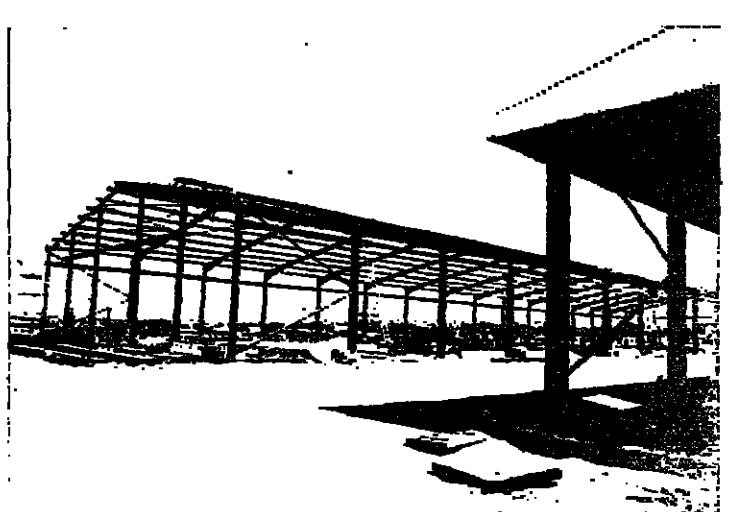
Thus the total of imports and exports at Aqaba has risen from 1,553 million tons in 1975 to 5,010 million last year, and is expected to reach 7.8 million this year.



The phosphate storage and loading areas south of the main general cargo berths.



Unloading general cargo (foreground) and loading raw phosphate rock (background) at Aqaba Port.



Some of the new covered storage sheds under construction as part of the expansion project.

na Kurdi: Working one's way to the top

NOTE: This is one in a series of articles about women of

at McDonnell
— the Jordan Times

JS—Miss Mona Kurdi is a television musical actress. She has been on the air for more than 10 years, and has become a household name. She is a woman who has worked her way to the top of the television industry, and is now a professional at Arab news into

ts were against her. It was a 18-year-old Mona Kurdi who without their help came out first on television. I was so proud that I'd good working at a My father then told I was set on working, a job at a bank."

had spent three ing down two part- carrying a full load the university, Miss

Kurdi says, her father called a family conference. The consensus was that she was to keep her job at the radio station. Throughout her four years at Damascus University, she devoted three hours a day to her work at the station.

She broke into TV during the October war. For the final three months of 1973, Damascus TV issued news bulletins in French, and she was selected to write and narrate them. The French newscasting job ended in January 1974, when Miss Kurdi travelled to the Netherlands for a special course on new techniques of news production and announcing at Hilversum, near Amsterdam.

Upon her return to Syria, she launched a TV show entitled "Around the World", which offered songs from various foreign countries along with a commentary on the customs of the featured country. In 1977, the show's producers made plans for a musical revue that would combine folkloric performances with popular music.

"I was again to announce the selections, but I put my foot down," she continued. "I told the powers that be that I wasn't just a reader; that either they let me produce the new show or I would resign. I wanted to be responsible for selecting the material shown and for writing the scripts."

Miss Kurdi won out over objections to "a mere slip of a girl" producing a show, and "Stars and Lights" made its debut in Autumn 1978.

"Originally, the show was presented in French, English and Arabic," she said. "At the outset, the ratings showed we only pulled in 20 per cent of the TV audience. We're now up to 80 per cent, and the station management has decided the narration should be in Arabic to hold the attention of the viewers, since an 80 per cent rating means a nearly all-Syrian audience. Nonetheless, when I



Mona Kurdi watches an unedited version of her "Stars and Lights" programme with her all male staff: two cameramen, two film editors and one technician.

have an interview with a foreign entertainer, it is conducted in his or her language."

All the "Stars and Lights" programmes are taped in advance. Once a month, the programme features an international star performing in Damascus. These shows are taped well in advance, whenever such a star is appearing in Syria. Another monthly feature is the viewers' choice, which spotlights performers chosen according to the volume of fan mail requesting them.

When asked if she has featured the popular Lebanese songstress Fairouz, Miss Kurdi replied: "Arabic entertainment is not part of the show's format. I feature only western artists... if I were to cover Arab entertainment it would be a totally different show. On the other hand, if the entertainer is Arab, but sings western songs, I will feature him or her. For instance, I have a show coming up that features the Lebanese singer Sammy Clark. He sings in English."

While her musical show is still top priority, Miss Kurdi is planning a new TV programme that will examine various professions through visits with Syrians on the job. "This will range from interviews with women in the Damascus police force to movie stunt men and computer analysts," she

said. Another one-hour show is on the drawing boards, but she feels it is too embryonic to discuss at this time.

Although she has become a celebrity on television, Miss Kurdi still maintains an active role at Radio Damascus. In addition to translating daily radio news commentaries into French, she produces two weekly radio programmes. "Woman, Where Are You Today?" airs each Thursday at 10:30 a.m. and features interviews with women who have entered the work force—from the owner of a village vegetable stand to the first woman pharmacist in Deira. The other show is heard Sundays at 1 p.m., and features popular western music.

Mona Kurdi may have broken traditions by carving out a place for herself in the male-dominated world of radio and TV, but she does not consider herself a "liberated woman."

"Let's put it this way," she said: "Syrian" women have freedom when it comes to education, and can enter any profession they're qualified for. It's in our personal lives, our relationships with men, that we cannot exercise our own choice. A woman may work all day in an office, but it's she, not her husband, who cooks, cleans houses and cares for the children

when she comes home.

"Because I am seen on TV weekly, I'm well known and if I go to any function with a man, the next day the newspapers say I'm engaged. No, I haven't married, but I'm still hoping to find the right man—of course, my mother and brothers would have to approve."

Miss Kurdi lives with her widowed mother and two younger brothers in a second-floor apartment in the Abu Rummaneh area of Damascus. She doesn't drive a car, but she hopes to remedy that soon.

"My savings have gone into a flat, soon to be completed, in the Mazzeah district. I'll rent the apartment out and buy a car with the proceeds," she explained.

As for living alone in the new flat, she said: "In Damascus it would be impossible for me to keep my reputation and live alone. I'll stay under my mother's roof until that right man comes along."

Unlike her counterparts in the West who think nothing of taking a solo vacation, when Miss Kurdi took a four-month holiday to Europe, Canada and the United States recently, she was accompanied by her mother.

It might however, be termed a working vacation, since she revisited the radio school she'd attended in Holland in 1974 to update radio newscasting techniques. In Ottawa and Montreal she visited radio and TV stations and taped hours of interviews with Arabs living in Canada which she will air on Radio Damascus.

"The US was not what I anticipated," she commented. "We travelled by bus from Toronto to Florida, and I came to understand that the Americans have their own way of life, suited to their technology—and we have ours."

Miss Kurdi is definitely well adjusted to her way of life, in which male writers, a director and film editors call her boss and don't resent it—but she can't cover a nightclub opening as a solo woman reporter, unless in the company of a male relative.

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TENNIS TOURNAMENT

May 16 British community v. R.A.C.

any members of the British community interested in playing tennis please contact m captain, Pat Way at 43178 by Monday April 21.

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

U.S. dollar	304.00/306.00
U.K. sterling	675.60/679.60
West German mark	163.80/164.80
Swiss franc	176.70/177.80
French franc	70.50/70.90
Italian lire	
(for every 100)	35.00/35.20
Japanese yen	
(for every 100)	122.50/123.20
Dutch guilder	149.80/150.70
Swedish crown	70.00/70.40
Belgian franc	101.40/102.00

TODAY'S WEATHER

It will be warmer but cloudy. Winds will be southeasterly fresh, raising dust in some places. In Aqaba, it will be dusty, with northerly strong winds and calm seas.

	Overnight	Daytime
	low	high
Amman	7	24
Aqaba	14	32
Deserts	6	26
Jordan Valley	12	32

Russia scouts for Gulf gas

Qatar defers gas field development

DOHA, Qatar, April 17 (AP) -- Qatar's oil minister said his government has no plans for harnessing the vast northwest gas fields as long as the country's crude oil production is sufficient to keep the economy afloat. The fields, called the Dome because of their symmetrical structure, hold reserves of about 100 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, industry sources said.

"Oil is a depletable resource which, in our case, may last 25 to 30 years," Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Thani told the Associated Press in an interview. "We will exploit our gas resources only when we face the need to decrease our production rates of crude oil."

He explained that his government regards gas as an "effective substitute" to crude oil in the future, but complained that gas is heavily underpriced in world markets. The day will come, he said, when the price of natural gas equals or exceeds that of crude oil.

Qatar's current daily production rate of crude oil stands at 500,000 barrels, selling at \$30 a barrel and generating just enough revenue for the economy to develop at a reasonable pace.

Qatar's gas fields were discovered during routine prospecting for crude oil by the Shell Qatar company in 1972, at a depth of 10,000 feet in the dome-shaped strata of the Khuff region. At the time oil was selling at about \$2 a barrel and Qatar's ruler, Sheikh Khalifa Al Thani, deemed it wiser to defer developing these fields in the foreseeable future.

Qatar's estimated 5.6 billion barrels of crude oil reserves are

expected to start declining in a decade or so, officials said. Serious studies, they said, were under way to assess costs and requirements for developing the Dome fields.

At Qatar's behest, the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is conducting price-fixing studies for natural gas. Sheikh Abdul Aziz said. The 30-year-old Sheikh, who doubles as finance minister, declined direct comment on reports that the Soviet Union was scouting in the Gulf states to offset its loss of Iranian gas.

In Kuwait, informed sources said Soviet "feelers" visited a number of Gulf states recently to assess chances of importing natural gas. Gulf officials have been evasive, mainly because their governments are vehemently opposed to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and Moscow's military presence in South Yemen, these sources said.

"Although we hate to mix politics with economics, we have denounced the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan," said Sheikh Abdul Aziz. "Besides, we are not as yet a net exporter of gas." This was widely interpreted here as a refusal by Qatar to sell gas to the Soviets.

The stoppage of Iranian gas and the decision by Kuwait and other OPEC members to sharply reduce their production of crude oil have given rise to predictions that demand for natural gas will outpace production.

A decline in oil production will inevitably entail a drop in the amount of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)—propane and butane—in

the near future, industry sources said. LPG is produced through a simple gas-crude separation process within the fields.

Liquefied natural gas (LNG)—methane, ethane, propane, butane and natural gasoline—is produced independently from crude oil. A further process separates propane, butane and natural gasoline from the rest and the three components are known as natural gas liquid (NGL).

One reason behind Qatar's reluctance to exploit its Dome field is the problem of expatriate workers, with the government reportedly anxious to keep down the number of foreign workers in the country. About 150,000 of Qatar's population of 220,000 are alien residents.

A vast gas-gathering industry would require a sharp increase in the number of foreign workers and aggravate what the government regards as an upsetting population imbalance.

Although the gas operations would require only a few hundred workers in the developed stage, spinoff projects and services would involve several thousands more, sources said. These sources estimated that developing the Dome would take \$3.5-\$5 billion, and Qatar has already been seeking foreign financing for its burgeoning heavy industries.

"We don't like to borrow money and pay high interest," one official said. Qatar's gas shipping facilities are limited, and expansion would involve enormous investments. "We haven't reached a final decision as to when we may be harnessing our gas reserves," Sheikh Abdul Aziz said.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATE

LONDON, April 17 (R) -- Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at the close of trading on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets today.

One sterling	2.2340/60	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1854/57	Canadian dollar
	1.8530/60	West German mark
	2.0400/50	Dutch guilders
	1.7360/90	Swiss francs
	29.77/82	Belgian francs
	4.3025/3100	French francs
	869.00/871.00	Italian lire
	247.65/248.15	Japanese yen
	4.3300/3400	Swedish crowns
	5.0100/0200	Norwegian crowns
	5.7400/7500	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	507.00/511.00	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON, April 17 (R) -- The market closed quietly mixed, dealers said. At 1500 the FT index was up 0.3 at 443.4.

Government bonds ended up to 1/8 point down awaiting details of allotment of the new 13 1/2 per cent treasury 2004 'tap' stock which was oversubscribed. The government had supplied the special three per cent exchequer 1984 'tap' at 70 and dealers noted speculation of exhaustion of the issue soon.

Gold declined with the bullion price while other equities were selectively firmer. US and Canadian stocks finished lower.

Oils had Ultramar up 14p following the annual report. Tricentrol closed 4p higher after detailing its planned New American share issue. BP ended 2p lower after denying it was buying a fleet of gas carriers from P and O which moved 1/2 higher.

Thomas Tilling ended unchanged after saying it had agreed principle to acquire Electric Supplies Distribution Company San Diego California. Northern Engineering advanced 1/2p following results.

Britain improves payments gap

LONDON, April 17 (AP) -- Britain's balance of payments improved by £50 million in March, but is still in the red, the Trade Department said today.

Official figures showed a current account deficit of £176 million in March compared with a deficit of £226 million in February.

Both imports and exports fell back from February's record levels. Exports were down from £4.13 billion in February to £3.84 billion in March. Imports fell from £4.35 billion to £4.01 billion.

But invisible earnings from items including tourism, banking, government transactions and interest payments are estimated to be running at a surplus of £50 million a month.

Exxon heads Fortune 500

NEW YORK, April 17 (R) -- General Motors no longer heads the list of the 500 largest U.S. companies, Fortune magazine said today. The car makers has been edged out of first place by the oil company Exxon, according to a list compiled by the monthly business magazine.

Fortune said the change might become a permanent one because Exxon led the motor giant by \$12 billion in sales this last year, a much wider edge than General Motors ever enjoyed over Exxon.

Last year, General Motors ranked first in the United States and in the world on Fortune's lists, a spot it held over Exxon for three years in the mid-1970s. The list was published at a time when General Motors announced 12,000 men were being laid off to cut costs. The car giant has now laid off 83,100 men.

Six of the top 10 companies on the list are oil companies. Mobil Oil took over third place from Ford on this year's list and Ford moved to fourth.

The financially-troubled Chrysler company dropped seven places on the list to rank number 17 and its deficit of \$1.1 billion was the biggest of

1979—more than twice as big as the previous recorded loss in American business history.

According to Fortune, only 13 companies on its list made as much money as the struggling car company lost and its deficit was greater than the sales of 235 of the companies on the list. It was the fourth time in the 25-year history of the list that Chrysler had emerged as a year's biggest loser. It previously had that dubious honour in 1958, 1974 and 1978.

The top 10 companies on the list are: Exxon, General Motors, Mobil, Ford, Texaco, Standard Oil of California, Gulf Oil, International Business Machines, General Electric and Standard Oil of Indiana.

Indonesia imposes oil premiums

JAKARTA, Indonesia, April 17 (AP) -- The state-run oil company Pertamina said today that Indonesia is not selling crude oil on spot markets, but it has adopted the system of premiums over official prices. Indonesia has imposed premiums on part of its oil exports to Japan especially since the crisis in Iran, a spokesman said. He said the premiums are reviewed each month for adjustments to market developments.

Premium prices are effective for certain types of oil bought by Japanese customers by applying a certain formula or pattern, the spokesman said. He said premium price system is also used by Kuwait, Libya and Venezuela, though the formula may be different.

Indonesia has been selling crude oil to Japan at the prices ranging from \$28.60 to \$32.75 per barrel, plus \$5.25 to \$6.40 in premiums per barrel, the spokesman said. He said the prices and premiums of Indonesian crude shipped to Japan this month would remain unchanged or similar to the last month's level.

The surcharges are effective for 40-50 per cent of the volume of contract which averages totals over 200,000 barrels, or more than one-third of Indonesian oil export to Japan daily, the spokesman said.

AMMAN MARKET PLACE

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مركز الحرف اليدوية

Mugabe calls for unity, reconciliation Salisbury prepares for independence celebrations

SALISBURY, April 17 (R) — Foreign dignitaries from around the world poured into Salisbury today for tonight's celebrations marking the birth of Africa's newest independent state, Zimbabwe.

Some 27 delegations from countries as far apart as West Germany and Papua New Guinea arrived early today to join others from countries including China, the Soviet Union, the United States and Britain — the colonial power about to shed its most persistent foreign policy problem.

Britain's Prince Charles, heir to the throne, is representing Queen Elizabeth at tonight's midnight ceremonies at a football stadium where the Union Jack flag will be hoisted for the last time, ending nine decades of white minority domination.

Zimbabwe's Premier Robert Mugabe launched an impassioned plea for unity and national reconciliation as his war-torn country headed for independence.

In a national broadcast only four hours before the new state of Zimbabwe was to be born, Mr. Mugabe said: "Our new mind must have a new vision and our hearts a new love that spurs hate and a new spirit that must unite and not divide."

"...If yesterday you hated me, today you cannot avoid the love that binds you to me and me to you... The wrongs of the past must now stand forgiven and forgotten," Mr. Mugabe said.

Mr. Mugabe has inherited a country still gripped by the passions of a seven-year bush war that cost well over 20,000 lives and stirred deep racial passions.

In a conciliatory spirit he said: "It could never be correct justification that because the whites oppressed us yesterday when they had power, the blacks must oppress them today because they have power."

"An evil remains an evil whether practised by white against black or by black against white," Mr. Mugabe declared.

Seeking to meet a crisis of expectations following his rise to power that has already led to industrial unrest, Mr. Mugabe said: "May I assure you that my government is determined to bring about meaningful change to the lives of the majority of the people in the country. But I must ask you to be patient and allow my government time to organise the programmes that will effectively yield that change."

Zia raps U.S.

Pakistan President Zia Ul Haq today assailed the United States for its stance towards the Soviet incursion into an Afghanistan and called on the U.S. to take practical steps against Moscow over the intervention. President Zia is in Salisbury for the Zimbabwe independence celebrations.

The Pakistan leader did not go into detail about what steps he

wanted the U.S. to take to counter the Soviet intervention but indicated he supported the idea of U.S. military assistance to Afghan rebels fighting the Soviet-backed Kabul government.

Asked whether he wanted direct U.S. military involvement in Afghanistan, he told reporters to compare the situation to war-torn Vietnam, where the Soviet Union and China supported the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong against the Americans and South Vietnamese but did not intervene directly.

Reporters took this to mean that he would support a similar role for the Americans against the Russians in Afghanistan.

Asked whether he wanted U.S. troops stationed on Pakistan soil he said: "No country in the world generally wishes foreign troops on their own soil."

It would be unworthy of Pakistan to give the U.S. military bases in Pakistan, he said, but added: "If war comes to Pakistan and America can play a role it is a different story."

On his relations with India, General Zia said: "There is nothing to fear from Pakistan... The sooner we get on the road of peace and better understanding and better relationships it will be better for both of us."

The Movement 19 (M-19) guerrillas, in statements reported by Bogota newspapers and magazines this week, volunteered to release three hostages from the Dominican Republic embassy on April 19, the tenth anniversary of presidential voting they claim was rigged.

The guerrillas did not say which hostages will be freed, but the El Siglo newspaper named as likely candidates Haitian Ambassador Luis Leonardo Pierre, reportedly troubled by an ailing stomach, and papal nuncio Monsignor Angelo Aorbi. The paper said the guerrillas might release Monsignor Aorbi to back repeated statements of admiration for the Roman Catholic Church.

The M-19 guerrillas stormed the embassy Feb. 27 during a rebellion and a range of criminal offenses. The government has consistently said it is constitutionally unable to order their release without trial.

"Our position is unyielding," El Siglo quoted one of the guerrillas as saying. "In no way will we travel without our colleagues of the top command."

In London, Amnesty International issued a report citing "widespread arbitrary arrests and systematic torture of political prisoners" in Colombia. One diplomat here said the report appeared to support M-19 charges that "there are human rights problems here."

Amnesty identified 33 centres where torture had been reported, and about 50 methods of torture, ranging from the psychological to beatings, burning, the use of drugs and electric shock.

Amnesty said it had recommended that the Colombian Government end a 30-year state of siege which, it said, had resulted in quasi-permanent suspension of human rights guarantees in Colombia's constitution.

Amnesty said its report, sent to the Colombian Government earlier this month, recognised that there had been acts of violence by some opposition groups within Colombia.

It said the state of siege "had facilitated indiscriminate and widespread political arrests, prolonged detention without trial, torture, summary trials of civilians before military courts and political murders, especially in peasant and Indian areas."

The Colombian military released its own report, saying that 189 officers and men had been killed over the past two years by the half dozen guerrilla organisations opposing the elected government.

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'Afghan crisis could destroy structure of East-West detente'

PARIS, April 17 (R) — The entire structure of East-West detente could be shaken to its foundations if the Afghan crisis is not settled quickly, French Foreign Minister Jean Francois-Poncet said today.

He told parliament the French Government maintained its demand for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, but at the same time intended to keep open its lines of communication with Moscow.

Mr. Francois-Poncet, who is to meet Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko in Paris next week, went on: "France has some things to say to the Soviet Union."

"No-one is probably better placed than France to make the point that it is up to the Soviet Union to take the necessary steps to restore detente, and to show Moscow the risks it would run in continuing along the path it has taken," the French minister said.

"Force always ends up by creating an opposing force. The suspicion that it causes is contagious."

"If the crisis is not quickly overcome, all the structure of East-West relations as it was built up patiently over 15 years at Helsinki and then Belgrade risks being shaken to its foundations," Mr. Francois-Poncet said.

Turning to the Middle East, the

foreign minister strongly rebuffed criticism of President Valery Giscard d'Estaing's recent call for recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

"I heard it said that France... cared little for Israel's right to existence and to security. It was even insinuated that it was acting out of sordid self-interest," he went on.

"France is as attached as anyone to Israel's existence and attentive to the conditions of its security. However, what France wants to see is not the security of a fortified camp, but the security brought by peace," Mr. Francois-Poncet added.

He went on to answer criticisms that one of the Middle East peace conditions set by France, acceptance of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), was impossible because the PLO's aim was to destroy the state of Israel.

"The settlement proposed by France implies the renunciation by each of the parties of whatever is excessive, unjustified or unacceptable in its claims."

"I can state clearly that this applies to the PLO, and also to Israel. Our stand implies no preference for either side," the French foreign minister said.

Union and the U.S. refrain from deploying additional or more modern tactical nuclear weapons in Europe for a period of about three years.

The interval could be used for talks on limiting the European nuclear arsenals of NATO and the Warsaw Pact with the aim of agreeing on a balanced ceiling.

Mr. Schmidt's proposals went a step further than a NATO call for arms reduction talks last December when the alliance decided to modernise its defences in Europe with American Pershing and Cruise missiles.

At yesterday's press conference, Mr. Gruenewald said a period until 1983 was proposed because the new NATO weapons would not be ready for deployment before then.

Mr. Schmidt, who spoke on Saturday in the Ruhr city of Essen, had said it could take two to four years before NATO caught up with the Soviet Union. At present, Moscow was adding one new missile a week and five new medium range bombers every two months to its armory, while the West was only preparing to close the gap.

Meanwhile, Mr. Schmidt yesterday urged West German Olympic team members to show solidarity with U.S. athletes who voted to boycott the Moscow games.

At a reception for Winter Olympics athletes, Mr. Schmidt said the games "can only take place during peace. It is up to the Soviet Union to make these conditions possible for all athletes to attend."

The chancellor noted with "deep inner sorrow" that four weeks before the West German Olympic Committee's vote on whether to send a team, "The conditions have not been fulfilled by the Soviet Union."

Mr. Schmidt said the government will make known soon its recommendation on the boycott issue, and that he expects the West

German Olympic Committee to take this into consideration in its vote May 15.

The chancellor has previously said he would recommend against West German athletes competing in Moscow unless Soviet troops are withdrawn from Afghanistan by May 24, the deadline for accepting an invitation to the games. His cabinet is expected to endorse the U.S.-led boycott next week.

Mr. Willi Daume, president of the West German Olympic committee, met with Mr. Schmidt prior to the reception. Mr. Daume indicated support for a proposal to hold future summer games exclusively in Greece.

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Armenian activists claim attack on Turkey's Vatican ambassador

BEIRUT, April 17 (R) — Armenian activists today claimed responsibility for an attack on Turkey's ambassador to the Vatican and threatened further strikes against Turkish personalities and institutions.

In a statement telephoned to Reuter's Beirut office, the "Justice Commandos of the Armenian Genocide" said their men shot and wounded Ambassador Vecdi Turel as he was driving to work.

Police said two young men shot the ambassador and his guard at a city cross-roads and then escaped.

Mr. Turel is the successor to Ambassador Karim Taha, who was murdered on a Rome street in June 1977.

The two victims were taken to hospital where doctors said Mr. Turel had been shot in the right shoulder and chest and the guard was hit in the right cheek. They were not in serious condition.

The Justice Commandos first hit the headlines by claiming responsibility for the assassination of the Turkish ambassador to Vienna in October 1975.

Today's statement dissociated the Justice

Commandos from acts of violence against non-Turkish institutions such as airline offices.

Armenian activists have accused Turkey of perpetuating anti-Armenian policies dating back to the mass killing of over one million Armenians in Turkey in 1915.

Today's statement was telephoned by an English-speaking caller and said:

"Our revolutionary movement began in 1975 with the terrorist acts directed against Turkish ambassadors, representatives and Turkish institutions."

"Our commandos first struck in Vienna, then in Paris, Rome, The Vatican, Madrid, the Hague, again in Paris and included an attempt on the life of the Turkish ambassador in Beirut."

"(Our revolutionary movement) claims responsibility for the latest attack which took place a while ago in the Vatican against the Turkish ambassador."

"This is our style. Our only aim is to strike at Turkish personalities and institutions all over the world. We condemn acts directed against non-Turkish airlines or institutions. We will strike again."

Colombia guerrillas to release three more hostages Saturday

BOGOTA, Colombia, April 17 (AP) — Guerrillas holding 20 hostages, most of them diplomats, for nearly two months said they will free three more hostages Saturday, but negotiations for the release of the rest are at an apparent standstill.

The Movement 19 (M-19) guerrillas, in statements reported by Bogota newspapers and magazines this week, volunteered to release three hostages from the Dominican Republic embassy on April 19, the tenth anniversary of presidential voting they claim was rigged.

The guerrillas did not say which hostages will be freed, but the El Siglo newspaper named as likely candidates Haitian Ambassador Luis Leonardo Pierre, reportedly troubled by an ailing stomach, and papal nuncio Monsignor Angelo Aorbi. The paper said the guerrillas might release Monsignor Aorbi to back repeated statements of admiration for the Roman Catholic Church.

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World News Briefs

RABAT, April 17 (R) — Central African students in Morocco occupied their embassy in Rabat today to commemorate the first anniversary of the massacre of children in Bangui, former emperor Bokassa. There were no incidents. In a unique, the students demanded that the Central African government "pronounce a real verdict on all those who participated in the massacre of children in any way." An unknown number of people, mainly schoolchildren, were murdered in Bangui Bokassa's orders last January and April after being imprisoned refusing to buy compulsory uniforms sold in shops owned by Bokassa's family. The students occupying the embassy also urged student movements to insist that the Bangui government demand extradition of the former emperor, who is living in exile in the Coast.

MILAN, Italy, April 17 (AP) — Milan police have warned tonight's gang operating in the local railway station, which offers sleepers drinks before robbing travellers of money and valuables. The victims were four Iranians, found drugged and robbed of their luggage in a train coach bound for Germany on Tuesday. The four told police they had been offered a drink by some strangers. Police said similar cases, most involving foreign travellers were reported in the busy Milan station in the past few weeks.

ROME, April 17 (AP) — Premier Francesco Cossiga's centrist government today won a vote of confidence at the Senate in its appearance in parliament. The coalition government of Christian Democrats, Socialists and Republicans, formed after a 16-day crisis, received from the 315-seat 178 votes in favour and against. The government will face another vote of confidence in the 630-seat Chamber of Deputies, where it also holds a majority this or early next week. Two partners of Mr. Cossiga's minority government, the Democratic Socialists and the Liberals, voted against the cabinet along with Italy's second-largest party, the Christian Democrats, the Communists. Mr. Cossiga's government was Italy's 39th since the end of World War II and the majority cabinet in six years.

PARIS, April 17 (R) — President Goukouni Oueddei of Chad in an interview published yesterday his embattled forces in the N'Djamena were considering accepting aid from the nearby Libyan Jamahiriya. Mr. Goukouni told the Paris-Match magazine that a Libyan offer was under study. He did not give details. Mr. Goukouni's forces have been battling for almost four months against forces loyal to Defence Minister Hissene Habre. Mr. Goukouni estimated that at least 800 people have died and been wounded in the battle for the capital of the land-locked African country. Mr. Goukouni said Mr. Habre's forces had received aid from Egypt and Sudan.

JAKARTA, April 17 (R) — A strong earthquake, measuring the Richter scale, rocked large areas of Java and Bali last night. A spokesman for the Jakarta Bureau of Meteorology Geophysics said the quake's epicentre was about 70 kilometres south of the capital of Jakarta. A local newspaper in Bandung kilometres southeast of Java, reported that thousands of people fled from their homes. The newspaper also said a number of houses and buildings in the Tasikmalaya district, about 100 kilometres southeast of Bandung, were damaged or destroyed. November an earthquake, also measuring 6.4 on the Richter scale, killed 25 people and destroyed some 10,000 homes in the same area.

NEW DELHI, April 17 (AP) — Army troops were placed today in the north-eastern state of Manipal after one student was dead when violence flared between agitating students and police. United News of India (UNI) reported. Police said the youth when officers fired in "self-defence" at a group of stone-throwing students who attacked them in the state capital of Imphal kilometres northeast of Calcutta, UNI said. One student was wounded in the shooting the news agency reported. The student demanding the postponement of ongoing school examinations the government reports hundreds of alleged illegal immigrants nearby Bangladesh. A similar, powerful movement in Assam state led by students against the largely Muslim immigrants has crippled industrial production and paralysed the local administration since last October.

KUALA LUMPUR, April 17 (R) — The King of Malaysia in week's free holiday in Italy in a lucky draw arranged by the distributors of Italian Alfa Romeo cars. The draw for 12 million package tour were open to recent Alfa Romeo buyers and Malaysia was one of them. A motor company spokesman said he had been told about his prize but was not likely to join the tour. The winning ticket can be transferred, the spokesman said.

Greece announces presidential election

ATHENS, April 17 (R) — The Greek parliament will meet next Wednesday to elect a new president of the republic, it was announced here today. The decision was taken after a cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Constantine Karamanlis.

The five-year term of President Constantine Tsatsos ends on June 20 and parliament must vote for a new president by May 19.

The official announcement issued after the cabinet meeting said Premier Karamanlis will address the Greek people tomorrow to announce whether or not he will be a candidate for the presidency.

To be elected, a candidate requires 200 votes in the 300-seat parliament in either the first or the

second ballots. In the third ballot, if one is necessary, only 180 votes are needed. If no president is elected in the third ballot, parliament will be dissolved and general elections proclaimed within ten days.

The ruling New Democracy Party commands 174 seats in the house and should Mr. Karamanlis decide to run for the presidency, would have to rely on the smaller parties and independents who together hold 18 seats to ensure his election.

The Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok) of Mr. Andreas Papandreu has said it will boycott the presidential elections and the Greek Communist Party has said it will vote against Mr. Karamanlis. Together they

hold 104 seats in the house. Meanwhile, Greece has moved to modernise its armed forces and to modernise its armed forces and to modernise its armed forces.

The announcement came after a meeting chaired by Karamanlis at the headquarters of the Greek armed forces.

Key ministers, including Coordination and Defence Ministers Constantine Mitsotakis and Evangelos Averoff-Tsalkis, leaders of the Greek army, took part in the meeting.

Greece currently spends 25 per cent of its gross budget on defence.

Moscow renews invitation for Schmidt's visit

BONN, April 17 (Agencies) — The Soviet Union has suggested that West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt could visit Moscow this summer, a Bonn government spokesman said yesterday.

A long-standing Soviet invitation was renewed some days ago by Moscow's ambassador in Bonn, Mr. Vladimir Semynov, who asked if a date in early or mid-summer would be convenient, he said.

The spokesman, Mr. Armin Gruenewald, said Bonn was leaving the question open and felt the timing of a visit would have to be decided in the light of East-West

relations in general.

Mr. Schmidt, originally invited two years ago during a Bonn visit by Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, has repeatedly called for the East-West dialogue to be maintained despite current world tensions.

In a speech last Saturday, he chided the United States and the Soviet Union for not talking to each other enough and at the same time called for progress towards curbing the spread of nuclear weapons in Europe.

In remarks that escaped notice until the text of the speech was distributed this week in Bonn, Mr. Schmidt proposed that the Soviet

Union and the U.S. refrain from deploying additional or more modern tactical nuclear weapons in Europe for a period of about three years.

The interval could be used for talks on limiting the European nuclear arsenals of NATO and the Warsaw Pact with the aim of agreeing on a balanced ceiling.

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